

Macedonia **Eco-DRR** Newsletter

Capacity Building For ECO-DRR Through Sustainable Forest Management In MACEDONIA _ Nov 2017 - Oct 2022

Capacity building project for ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) through sustainable forest management

The goal of this Project is to develop Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) model against floods, landslides, soil erosion, and forest fires by the utilization of multiple forest functions. With the increasing natural disaster risks around the world, expectations for Eco-DRR have risen in recent years.

Training for Forest Rehabilitation Plan

The Forest Rehabilitation Plan training was conducted in Radovish for PENF (Public Enterprise National Forests) staff on November 3rd, 2021. In order to enhance forest functions to prevent soil erosion and floods etc., it is important to create a forest rehabilitation plan properly, and to carry out the conservation works in a systematic way.

During the training, participants first visited the Radovishka-Oraovichka Reka FMU (Forest Management Unit), which covers the two basins of the Radovish and Oravichka rivers. While observing this FMU site, they reviewed an outline of the forest functions categorization plan (zoning), divided into four sections. Then, they moved to the Project's pilot site and learned the process of creating a rehabilitation plan. At the end of the training, participants were divided into small groups and attempted to create a planning map for the forest conservation and planting area. Project Experts also underlined the importance of observing in person and of analyzing details of the terrain by using images taken from a drone. In 2022, additional training on forest rehabilitation planning will be delivered to PENF branch office staff in order to increase their capabilities.



Explaining at the pilot site (left) Creating a planning map (right)

Topographic interpretation training



For four days during the period from October 27th to November 8th, 2021, training sessions on topographic interpretation for mountainous hazard risks were conducted for PENF staff in charge of tree planting and logging. The purpose of this training was to help participants understand the characteristics of the typical topographic signs on aerial photographs that are associated to mountainous hazard risks. First, participants learned about the general principles of aerial photographs. Secondly, they studied the mechanisms and occurrences leading to mountainous disaster risks, from the basics to topographic characteristics.

Practical training on photointerpretation for mountainous hazard risks in Radovish and Chaska FMU area was also conducted by using a stereoscope. While quite challenging, participants were able to identify the location of the aerial photographs, and carefully observed the risk area with the stereoscope. It is expected that PENF staff will effectively formulate economical and efficient tree planting plans, create hazard maps, and perform forest functions categorization by mastering these techniques.

Drone Training

Drone training was conducted for CMC (Crisis Management Center) and PENF staff. After a review of the drone settings and controller operation, participants learned about manual and automatic operation. On a clear day, they could also experience flight operation.



Forest Policy Workshop



Group discussion

The 2nd Forest Policy Workshop was held on November 9, 2021 in a hybrid format. CMC and PENF staff including the Veles Branch participated from the venue in Skopje city, while MAFWE (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy) staff and professors from Sts. Cyril and Methodius University Faculty of Forestry participated online.

Based on the results of a preliminary survey conducted by Project Experts, discussions were held on how to improve forest policies to mainstream Eco-DRR in North Macedonia. As a result, five improvement ideas were collected through this workshop.

These ideas will be handed over to MAFWE as one of the contributions of the Project. It is also expected that they will be used by MAFWE's consultants under IPA II (EU's Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance).

In order to mainstream Eco-DRR in North Macedonia, it is necessary to continuously propose and mature improvement plans. For that reason, it is hoped that the already established working group on forest policy will shortly resume its activities.



Writing down ideas

5th JCC Meeting

The 5th JCC (Joint Coordinating Committee) was held on November 12, 2021 in a hybrid format, connecting CMC office and online participants. It was attended by a total of 18 participants including personnel from CMC, PENF, MAFWE, Japanese Embassy, JICA Headquarters, JICA Balkan Office, and Project Experts.

The meeting was conducted under the chairmanship of Mr. Stojanche Angelov, Director of CMC and Eco-DRR Project. An update on activities implemented in 2021 as well as the activity plan for 2022 were shared. In addition, participants approved the extension of the project implementation period by one year in order to deal with the delay in the forest conservation works. This delay results from the postponement of Project Experts dispatch following the spread of the Covid-19 infection.



JCC Group Photo

Main activities in the past half year

Overall Activities

- ◆ Resumed full-scale dispatch of Project Experts
- ◆ Conducted 5th TCG and 5th JCC

Output 1: MKFFIS strengthened and expanded

- ◆ Completed inspection of MAKFFIS/GFIS development
- ◆ Conducted GFIS trainings
- ◆ Conducted topographic interpretation training

Output 2: Strengthening of Forest Management Plan

- ◆ Conducted forest rehabilitation plan training
- ◆ Conducted 2nd forest policy workshop
- ◆ Surveyed in Chaska FMU area with a drone
- ◆ Conducted drone training

Output 3: Capacity building in land restoration and afforestation technology

- ◆ Radovish North: Started construction and plantation work
- ◆ Radovish South/North: Continued monitoring of planted trees
- ◆ Conducted conservation survey training

Output 4: Public awareness on Eco-DRR

- ◆ Conducted interview and edits for Eco-DRR Promotion video
- ◆ Continued public relations activities through social networks



Macedonia Eco-DRR Facebook



Events in the next half year

- Radovish North: Continue conservation and plantation works
- Radovish South/North: Conduct supplemental planting and its monitoring
- Lisiche: Start conservation and plantation works
- Conduct MKFFIS training
- Continue monitoring of restoration works and nursery equipment
- Continue Eco-DRR promotion video creation

Contact



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